

LIBRARY TRUSTEES
NOTES ON MISSION STATEMENT
9/12/2013

Revised Vision Statement:

“Cambridge, a diverse city of active citizens, proud of its past, hopeful of its future, envisions its public library as a doorway to opportunity, self-development, knowledge, and recreation used by all its residents, and as a forum where they share ideas, cultures, and resources among themselves and with people around the globe. The free availability of information, the lively interaction of people, and the open exchange of ideas animate and extend the democratic traditions from which our city, our country, and our people have so greatly benefited.”

Current Mission Statement:

“So that enlightenment and literacy may flourish in our community, the Cambridge Public Library dedicates itself to collecting and disseminating an array of information and ideas that is diverse in nature, varied in format, and rich in viewpoint, reflecting the multi-cultural character of the community it serves and of our wider world. The library provides free, equal, and confidential access to its resources and services, and actively promotes their use by all residents of the city.”

Thoughts About Mission (what we do to move towards the Vision) from previous discussion:

Extending the library....

...both virtually (via technology’s impact on information, tools, community connections/space) and personally (via outreach to new audiences/user group and programing that brings new people into the buildings).

Engaging Users...

...Learning, empowering, connecting, convening....being aware of and responsive to demographic shifts, particularly in the school-age population

Verbs That Describe What We (want to) Do or Facilitate Our Users To Do

Collecting...Accessing...Creating...Convening...Learning...Empowering...Connecting...Fostering...Bridging...Transforming...

We Provide Access and Guidance to Resources...

We Help Users Develop and Express...personal and social value...creativity...community knowledge...literacy...wisdom

The concept in the last sentence of the current mission statement: “free, equal, confidential” should be retained in some way in the new mission statement.

Words That Describe What We Are or Want To Be

Trusted....Guide...Navigator...Free...Cozy/home...Open Door...Open Ended...

Words Organized Using Key Phrases in the Vision as an Organizing Structure:

DOORWAY TO....

- Access, guidance, to resources
- Literacy
- Engaged citizenship and self-growth
- Enhancing personal and social values

FORUM....

- Open to all
- Inclusion
- Convening
- Facilities/space (physical & virtual)
- Community creativity/creation
- Facilitating

AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION...

- Collections
- Content – all formats, many locations; user generated
- Access
- Teaching

INTERACTION OF PEOPLE...

- Ad hoc space
- Forums
- Community center
- Alone together
- Buzzing hive

OPEN EXCHANGE

- Bridging